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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/311,188	05/13/1999	DEBORAH L. PINARD	3988	9904

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EXAMINER

SING, SIMON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/311,188

Applicant(s)

PINARD, DEBORAH L.

Examiner

Simon Sing

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 May 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because blocks 60 and 72 in figure 1 are both labeled as "VOICE-MAIL APPLICATION". According to page 5, lines 7 and 9 of specification, block 60 should be labeled as "CALL-LOG APPLICATION".

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. US Patent 5,568,540 in view of Sylvan US Patent 5,943,055.

2.1 Regarding claim 1, Greco discloses a method and apparatus for selecting and playing a message in figures 1 and 2. Greco's system comprising:

a network 30 (column 3, lines 23-26);

a plurality of applications connected to said network, each of said application handling a different type of communication and storing information concerning incoming communications directed to users of communications system (column 4, lines 57-59); and

at least one computer connected to said network (column 3, lines 26-29) and receiving said incoming communications information from selected applications, said at least one computer including a display and processor executing a view application for generating a display (column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 7; Figure 2).

Greco teaches generating a two-dimensional icon representing incoming information, but fails to teach generating a three-dimensional representation for representing incoming information.

However, Sylvan discloses a computer interface method and system for processing and presenting graphic objects in figure 1. Sylvan teaches retrieving incoming communications information by clicking on a three-dimensional icon (Figures 2 and 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco reference with the teaching of Sylvan so that the icons of Greco would have been three-dimensional, because such modification would have provided vivid graphical representations to a user.

2.2 Regarding claim 2, the Greco reference, modified by Sylvan, further teaches that the three-dimensional representation includes a plurality of objects, each object

depicting a different type of incoming communication, such as voice mail, FAX and email (column 4, lines 57-59).

2.3 Regarding claim 3, the Greco reference, modified by Sylvan, further teaches that the different types of incoming communication are represented by a plurality of objects, each representing a category of incoming communication within said different types, such as new messages or old messages (column 4, lines 30-38).

2.4 Regarding claim 15, Greco discloses a method and apparatus for selecting and playing a message in figures 1 and 2. Greco's system comprising:

- a network 30 (column 3, lines 23-26);

- a plurality of applications connected to said network, each of said application handling a different type of communication and storing information concerning incoming communications directed to users of communications system (column 4, lines 57-59);

and

- at least one computer connected to said network (column 3, lines 26-29) and receiving said incoming communications information from selected applications, said at least one computer including a display and processor executing a view application for generating a display (column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 7; Figure 2). The Greco's reference discloses only one computer, but by inherency, a network supports a plurality of computers.

Greco teaches generating a two-dimensional icon representing incoming information, but fails to teach generating a three-dimensional representation for representing incoming information.

However, Sylvan discloses a computer interface method and system for processing and presenting graphic objects in figure 1. Sylvan teaches retrieving incoming communications information by clicking on a three-dimensional icon (Figures 2 and 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco reference with the teaching of Sylvan so that the icons of Greco would have been three-dimensional, because such modification would have provided vivid graphical representations to a user.

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. US Patent 5,568,540 in view of Sylvan US Patent 5,943,055 and further in view of Bobo US Patent 5,675,507 and further in view of Vinberg et al. US Patent 4,800,510.

The Greco reference, modified by Sylvan, teaches generating three-dimensional icons representing different types of incoming communications and categories of each type, but fails to teach the size of each icon represent the number of incoming communications.

However, Bobo discloses a message storage and delivery system in figure 1. Bobo teaches using anchors to indicate the total number of messages for each type, and within each type, the total number of saved (read or opened) and new messages

(column 7, lines 62-67; column 8, lines 15-20). Furthermore Vinberg discloses a method and system for computer generated graphics layout in figure 1. Vinberg teaches that an object size is proportional to its number (Figure 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference, which was modified by Sylvan, with the teaching of Bobo and Vinberg so that instead of a detail listing of messages, each type of incoming communication and each category of each type would have been represented by a three-dimensional icon with the number of messages, and size of the icon would have been proportional to the number of messages within, because such modification would have provided a user an overview of incoming communications.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. US Patent 5,568,540 in view of Sylvan US Patent 5,943,055 and further in view of Picard US Patent 6,233,318.

Greco discloses method and system for selecting and playing a message in figures 1 and 2. Greco's system including separate applications to handle different types of communication, such as voice mail, FAX and email (column 4, lines 57-59), directed to users of said communication system. Greco's method of presenting status information concerning incoming communications handled by separated applications that are directed to a specific user comprising the steps of:

sending a request over a network 30 (column 3, lines 23-31) to select applications for status information relating to incoming communications directed to said specific user (Figure 2);

processing status information received from said selected applications to generates a two-dimensional representation of said status information, status information received from each application being separately depicted in said two-dimensional representation (Figure 2); and

Presenting said two-dimensional representation on a display (Figure 2).

Greco teaches that the separated applications are located in a server, but fails to teach that the separated applications are being interconnected by a network. Greco also fails to teach generating a three-dimensional representation for representing incoming information.

However, Picard discloses a multimedia system in figure 1. Picard teaches that separated applications, such as e-mail application 66 and voice mail application 68 are interconnected to a network (Figures 2 and 3). In addition, Sylvan discloses a computer interface method and system for processing and presenting graphic objects in figure 1. Sylvan teaches retrieving incoming communications information by clicking on a three-dimensional icon (Figures 2 and 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco reference with the teaching of Picard and Sylvan so that the separated applications would have been interconnected by a network and the icons of Greco would have been three-dimensional, because such

modification would have reduced the load of the server and provided vivid graphical representations to a user.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (703) 305-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

S.S.

06/28/2002

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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